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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of ) SHIMIZU  
Title )  
 ) Vessel for Holding Silicon and Method for  
 ) Producing the Same  
 )  
Int'l Patent Appl. No. ) PCT/EP2002/013850  
 )  
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Attorney Docket No. ) 1433 (05-28)

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Please amend the specification and claims of the National Stage application as indicated on the attached sheets. Applicants request early and favorable action on pending claims 1-10.